

## INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The East German Council of Ministers convened for an all-day session on 20 December 1954. Foreign Minister Lothar Bolz took State Secretary Handke along to this meeting. This is a rare procedure, inasmuch as state secretaries are not members of the Council of Ministers and attend such meetings only on extremely important occasions.

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3. On 13, December 1954, Wilhelm Meissner, head of Main Department III in the Foreign Ministry, spoke to 600 students at Karl-Marx University in Leipzig about the meaning and significance of the recent Moscow Conference of Communist satellites. After his speech, Meissner was embarrassed by the questions of several students. A theological student asked whether a future East German draft law will have a provision for conscientious objectors. Meissner evaded the answer to this question by stating that honest and upright people must protect themselves against intruders and criminals. A medical student then suggested that the remilitarization of the Federal Republic could be justified by the fact that the VP and KVP have existed in the Soviet Zone for quite some time. Another student asked in a rather pointed manner whether university students will have to interrupt their studies in order to serve in the proposed East German Army. Meissner stated that students will be able to continue their education, although he did not explain how, when, or where. Meissner was extremely disturbed by the students' reaction and attitude, and, after his speech, he called a meeting of the university's faculty and launched into a tirade against their failure to have indoctrinated the students sufficiently in the party line. After his return to Berlin, Meissner wrote a lengthy report to the SED Central Committee about his unpleasant Leipzig experience. Meissner personally took the report to the Central Committee on 14 December 1954 and spent 3½ hours in conference there.

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4. Emil Rathmann is still in the Foreign Ministry, but he is no longer Cadre Chief. That position has been taken over by Voss (fnu), who formerly was in the Interior Ministry. It was not known what position Rathmann now occupies. Rathmann is said to visit the SED Central Committee frequently. He is a member of the Central Committee's Central Auditing Commission.
5. Manfred Schmidt, partyless commercial attaché in the East German Embassy in Warsaw, has been recalled from that position to Berlin after an extremely short tour in Warsaw. The reason for Schmidt's recall was not known but it was pointed out that Schmidt is the only non-SED member of the Foreign Ministry who has ever been assigned to an East German Embassy.
6. Wyschka (fnu), a staff member of the East German Embassy in Warsaw, returned to his post from East Berlin on 20 December 1954. He had been in East Berlin only three days. On his way from Warsaw to Berlin he made a short stopover in Szczecin (Stettin) to conduct some official business. Wyschka's East Berlin residence is at Horterweg 11, Karlshorst.
7. No new cars will be allocated to the Foreign Ministry during 1955, although, without exception, the present automobile stock of the Ministry is in poor shape. Also, in an effort to cut down expenditures, the Foreign Ministry, after 1 January 1955, will no longer finance the garaging of cars. Thus, if a driver wishes to keep the car assigned to him in good shape, he has to pay the garage bill out of his own pocket.

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